

Remarks

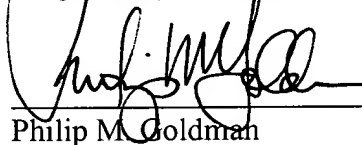
Claims 1 and 3-12, 15-42, 45-52, and 55-69 were pending. Claims 27-29, 47-49 and 67-69 have been cancelled without prejudice in view of the indication of the allowable nature of the claims that remain. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1, 3-12, 15-26, 30-42, 45, 46, 50-52 and 55-66 will be pending and in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment and reconsideration of the pending rejection is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned in the event any remaining issues arise.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required to Deposit Account No. 061910.

Dated: 18 FEB 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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